Alberta Finance
Economic Bulletin

ECONOMIC STATISTICS RELEASED DURING THE WEEK OF May 21, 2001 TO May 25, 2001

	Reference Period	Month/Previous Month (m/m)	Month/Previous Year's Month (y/y)	Comments
Retail Sales ($millions)	March			Alberta retail sales rose 1.8% in March to $2.8 billion after declining 0.4% in February. This increase was $51 million higher than February and a staggering $257 million higher than March 2000. Canadian retail sales were up a more modest 0.3% in March. Consumers spent more in the automotive sector (0.5%), clothing sector (0.9%), and furniture sector (1.9%). Retail sales advanced in six provinces with Nova Scotia (4.1%), Newfoundland (3.1%), and Alberta (1.8%) realising the largest gains.
Alberta	2,838	1.8%	10.5%	
Canada	23,737	0.3%	3.6%	
Canadian Composite Leading Index (1992=100)	April			The Composite Leading Index remained unchanged from March. Five of the ten components increased, with the largest gains recorded in new orders of durables (1.4%), and the M1 money supply (0.9%). The largest declines were in the TSE 300 index (-2.0%) and in the housing index (-0.8%). The ratio of shipments to inventories is down 5.5% from April 2000, indicating continued weakness in exports of autos and electronics to the United States. Exports to the U.S. increased 0.5% in March to $30.8 billion.
	166.4	0.0%	1.66%	
Trade Balance Canada ($millions)	March			From January to March of 2001, Canada's trade surplus was 54.3% higher than the same period last year. Export growth increased 2.3% from February due to higher exports in high-tech equipment, automotive products, agriculture, and fishing. Record high imports of engines and turbines, other high tech equipment, and energy contributed significantly to an overall 1.7% increase in imports from February.
	6,164	5.6	54.3% [a]	

[a] Y.T.D. 2001 / Y.T.D 2000